(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received the task force report on developing tourism in the North-East;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1996 were 22,87,860 and it is estimated that about 2968 foreign tourists visited North Eastern States during the same period.

(b) The tourism development in this region is constrained by infrastructural deficiencies entry restrictions, image of insecurity inadequate publicity, etc.

(c) to (e) The Task Force constituted by the Department of Tourism has recommended improvement of infrastructural facilities including air access, development of specific tourist destinations, human resource development and effective promotional efforts. The Task Force has also identified a number of projects for tourism development in the region and some of them have been prioritised for Central financial assistance during 1997-98.

Hotel and Catering Management Institute

2321. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate number of institutions of Hotel and Catering Management in India;

(b) if not, reasons therefor;

(c) what are the future plans and steps envisaged by Government to meet the supply-demand gap in this regard; and

(d) how Government would exercise control over the quality of education in private run institutions?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (c) Government has set up 19 Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technology and 13 Foodcraft Institutes in collaboration with State Governments in different parts of the country. A large number of Institutes of Hotel Management have also been set up by the private sector, which are approved by All India Council for Technical education and affiliated with various universities.

Government is also taking steps to increase the intake capacity in these Institutes and set up new institutes to meet the requirement.

(d) All India Council for Technical Education sets norms and standards for private Institutes.

गुजरात में पर्यटन उद्योग की उपेक्षा

2322. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी** : क्या **पर्यटन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन उद्योग की दृष्टि से गुजरात के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों की उपेक्षा की जा रही

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या पावागढ़, गिरनार, सामनगीर, चारेवाड़ होलीडे कैम्प जैसे केन्द्रों की उपेक्षा की गई है और इसकी समुचित देखरेख नहीं की जा रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उपर्युक्त पर्यटन स्थलों के विकास और विस्तार के लिए कितनी धनराशि खर्च की जाएगी ताकि यहां राष्ट्रीय तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटकों को आकर्षित किया जा सके और इससे पर्यटन उद्योग को बढ़ावा मिल सके ?